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SUBJECT / SUJET: YMCA STILL NEEDS $117,000 TO MEET CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGE

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The Montreal YMCA's annual subscription campaign has to date raised $202,500 in its drive for funds to help support increasingly urgent youth programs.

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A number of the Montreal Y's main objectives were capsuled recently by Maurice F. Strong, head of Canada's External Aid Program and president of the National Council of YMCAs.

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He pointed out that society is increasingly being lived within and affected by larger and more complex institutions.

"We are educated by big institutions, we work in the big institutions of business life or government bureaucracy; many of our needs are provided by big institutions and much of our recreational and leisure time activities are carried on within an institutional environment."

Growing Government involvement in specialized aspects of education, social welfare and recreation is modifying the need for many services formerly offered only by churches and voluntary organizations.

In many instances, however, this provides voluntary agencies with opportunities to increase their effectiveness by becoming the instruments through which Government resources are directed and applied.

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The YMCA, for example should continue to pioneer research into more effective ways of working with youth towards co-operative solutions to contemporary problems.

Helping people adjust to the fact that skills learned during their youth may not be sufficient to enable them to earn a livelihood throughout their lifetimes should remain another important YMCA objective.

This the Y can help achieve through its programs of continuing education which, while strengthening an individual's ability to understand and cope with change, also expand his capacity to enjoy more things more fully.

Mr. Strong also considers the current confrontation of Canada's two main ethnic groups, which he describes as the "greatest challenge ever to Canadian nationhood," as another area for Y service.

"We must become a medium through which English-speaking and French-speaking people develop significant meaningful communication with each other," he urged."